

February 1, 2025

## Hydrangeas in Bloom

Hydrangeas, with their full, lush heads of petals, offer a captivating display in gardens and landscapes. These versatile shrubs bloom in a range of colors from the softest pastels to the most vibrant hues, depending on the soil's pH level. The bloom season for hydrangeas varies by type and locale, but generally, they grace gardens with their presence from mid-spring to late fall. Bigleaf hydrangeas, for instance, start their show in late spring, especially in warmer regions. Their large flowers can be pink or blue, and they bloom earlier than other types because they form their buds in the previous year. Oakleaf hydrangeas, native to

North America, begin their display with greenish flowers in mid-spring that turn creamy white and gradually fade to rose or pink. These hydrangeas are particularly striking with their oak-like leaves and conical flower clusters. In cooler climates, hydrangeas may not start blooming until early summer, but with proper care and selection of varieties, one can enjoy these blooms almost year-round. To ensure a long-lasting display, it's beneficial to plant different types of hydrangeas that flower at varying times. This strategic planting allows for a succession of blooms, providing color and interest throughout the growing season. Hydrangeas thrive in well-drained soil and benefit from part shade, especially in areas with hot

summers. They are hardy plants but do require some protection from harsh afternoon sunlight. With their ability to bloom on both old and new wood, some hydrangeas can even rebloom, offering a second wave of flowers in a single season. The enduring beauty of hydrangeas makes them a beloved choice for gardeners seeking to create a landscape with a long-lasting floral spectacle.